

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 305919

EXDIS NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EC, PFOR, UK

SUBJECT:THE BRITISH EC PRESIDENCY: BRITISH SENSITIVITIES
CONCERNING US/EC POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS

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REF: LONDON 20246

1. THE DEPARTMENT SHARES ASSESSMENT OF THE OPPORTUNITY
-- INDEED, THE CHALLENGE,-- PRESENTED BY THE FORTHCOMING
BRITISH EC PRESIDENCY TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF OUR
DIALOGUE WITH THE EC NINE. WE INTEND, ON OUR END, TO

MAKE THE MOST OF THIS OPPORTUNITY IN THE MONTHS AHEAD.
IN THIS CONNECTION, WHILE THERE MAY WELL BE TIMES WHEN WE
CHOOSE TO CONSULT ONLY WITH THE BRITISH, WE ANTICIPATE
THAT ON MOST ISSUES WE WILL WANT TO ADDRESS OUR VIEWS TO
THE NINE AS A WHOLE, THROUGH THE PRESIDENCY. AS A RULE OF
THUMB, THEREFORE, THE EMBASSY MAY ASSUME THAT ANY VIEWS
CONVEYED TO THE BRITISH UNDER THE US/EC DIALOGUE RUBRIC MAY
BE SHARED WITH HMG'S EC COLLEAGUES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

2. WITH REGARD TO PROTECTING THE INFORMATION WE RECEIVE
FROM THE BRITISH PRESIDENCY (PARA. 7, REFTEL), WE WILL DO
SO IN WASHINGTON AND ASK THAT ADDRESSEE POSTS DO THE SAME.
WE ARE SENSITIVE TO BRITISH CONCERNS ON THIS SCORE AND
WOULD NOT WISH TO JEOPARDIZE WHAT WE EXPECT WILL BE A MOST
USEFUL AND ACTIVE EXCHANGE WITH THE BRITISH EC PRESIDENCY.

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